



MACROPTUS FULIGINOSUS.

MACROPUS FULIGINOSUS.

Sooty Kangaroo.

Kangurus fuliginosus, Desm. Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., tom. xvii. p. 35. pl. E. 22 (*K. géant*).—Ib. Ency. Méth. Mamm., part i. p. 263.
Kangourou géant, F. Cuv. et Geoff. Hist. Nat. des Mamm., fasc. 2.—F. Cuv. Dict. Sci. Nat., tom. xxiv. p. 347.
Macropus fuliginosus, Less. Man. de Mamm., p. 225.—Gould, Mon. of Macrop., pl. —Waterh. in Jard. Nat. Lib. *Marsupialia*, p. 200.—Gray, List of Mamm. in Coll. Brit. Mus., p. 88.—Waterh. Nat. Hist. of Mamm., vol. i. p. 73.

ALTHOUGH I have mentioned, in my account of *Macropus major*, the probability that the animal to which the name of *M. fuliginosus* has been assigned is merely a variety of that species, I have thought it advisable to give reduced figures from the original specimens in the Paris and Leyden Museums, because these specimens differ considerably in the colouring of their fur from the ordinary examples of *M. major*, and because I believe the animal is no longer to be found on Kangaroo Island, where, according to Desmarest, the specimens above referred to were procured. The peculiar dull red colouring they exhibit may or may not be due to some unusual mode of preparing the skin before mounting; but one thing is certain: whatever may have been the original colouring of their fur, the term *fuliginosus* is now by no means descriptive of it; in all probability the change is due to the long exposure to light and dust to which they have been subjected,—an agency which has not only had a deleterious effect upon the specimens in question, but upon all those I brought from Australia. To become acquainted with the natural colouring of the various species of Kangaroo, it is positively necessary to observe them in their native country, where the newly-killed animals present colours which no art on the part of the Taxidermist or care on the part of Museum curators has the power of preserving, and to give a faithful portraiture of which, coloured drawings should then and there be made. I see the necessity of this more and more, whenever I look at specimens in our museums, from all of which the colours have more or less faded, until a general sameness of tint pervades the whole.

Fur of the body rather long and inclining to a woolly texture; general colour rusty yellowish brown, darker and inclining to sooty on the shoulders and centre of the back; hairs of the throat, back and abdomen grisly; sides of the face and muzzle uniform, and of the same colour as the body; inner surface of the ear furnished with long white hairs; external surface blackish brown; toes and apical half of the tail blackish brown.

	Male.		Female.	
	feet.	inches.	feet.	inches.
Length from the nose to the extremity of the tail	7	3	4	9½
„ of the tail	2	6	1	9
„ „ tarsus and toes, without the nail	1	0		9½
„ „ ear		4½		3¼
„ „ head		9¾		7

The Plate represents both sexes, necessarily greatly reduced.